

USDA Designates 2 Counties in Wyoming as Primary Natural Disaster Areas

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has designated Big Horn and Park counties as natural disaster areas due to damages and losses caused by an early hard freeze that occurred from September 10 through September 12, 2014.

After reviewing Loss Assessment Reports, USDA Secretary Thomas Vilsack determined there were sufficient production losses to warrant a Secretarial natural disaster designation with Big Horn and Park counties in Wyoming being designated primary natural disaster areas and will qualify for natural disaster assistance.

Farmers and ranchers in the following counties in Wyoming also qualify for natural disaster assistance because their parishes are contiguous:

Fremont

Johnson

Teton

Hot Springs

Sheridan

Washakie

Farmers and ranchers in the following counties in **Montana** also qualify for natural disaster assistance because their counties are contiguous:

Montana

Big Horn

Carbon

Gallatin

Park

A Secretarial disaster designation makes farm operators in primary counties and those counties contiguous to such primary counties eligible to be considered for certain assistance from the Farm Services Agency provided eligibility requirements are met. This assistance includes FSA emergency loans. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of a Secretarial disaster declaration to apply for emergency loans.

Local FSA offices can provide affected farmers with further information.